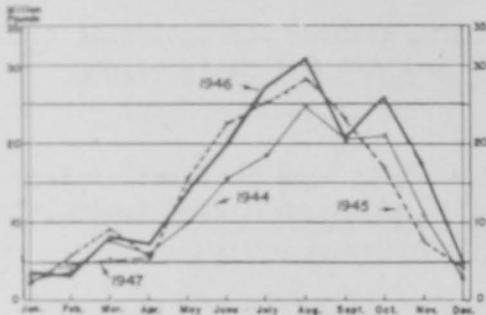


# FRESH AND FROZEN FISH

## New England

**MAINE LANDINGS:** Maine fishermen landed 5,646,000 pounds of fishery products, valued at \$603,932 during April, bringing the total for the first four months

LANDINGS AT MAINE PORTS, 1944-47  
By months



to 19,305,000 pounds, valued at \$2,146,844, according to Current Fishery Statistics No. 349. Nearly half the catch in April consisted of rosefish; however, this species ranked third in value, since fishermen received \$260,425 for their catch of lobsters, and \$179,045 for the soft clams dug during the month, compared with only \$62,015 received for the catch of rosefish. The catch by otter trawls accounted for over 60 percent of the fishery products taken during April. Hoes were used in taking 828,000 pounds of shellfish and 615,000 pounds of lobsters and crabs were taken by pots.

During April, landings at Portland amounted to 2,820,000 pounds, valued at \$72,203.



## Middle Atlantic

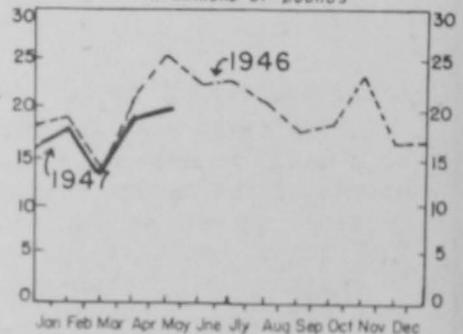
**NEW YORK CITY ARRIVALS:** Landings and receipts of fish and shellfish in New York City during April totaled 19,483,000 pounds. This was an increase of 9 percent compared with March and 19 percent below April 1946, according to the Service's local Market News Office. Compared with the previous month, fish receipts increased over 2,400,000 pounds, while those of shellfish increased 200,000 pounds.

The predominating species during the month were: cod, mackerel, flounder, shad, yellowtail, haddock, and scup. Hard clams, lobsters, oysters, scallops, and shrimp were the leading shellfish items.

While shad and mackerel were among the leading items for April, their respective totals were considerably less than the totals for the same month last year. Shad declined over 900,000 pounds. Despite the early catches of mackerel this year, the total receipts of that species for April were 450,000 pounds less than those of April 1946.

The market throughout the month was never any better than moderate, except for an occasional day when the demand was brisk, but even on those days the market was not sold out.

NEW YORK CITY RECEIPTS  
in millions of pounds



## Chesapeake

**PRODUCTION:** Production of fish in the Hampton Roads area of Virginia decreased from 5,185,000 pounds during March to 4,480,000 pounds in April, or 7 percent, according to the Service's Market News Office in Hampton. During April 1946, the production was 2,901,000 pounds. Of the total production, 2,354,000 pounds, or 49 percent, were croaker. Scup, with 981,000 pounds, and alewives, with 779,000 pounds came second and third, respectively. About two-thirds of the total catch was made up of trawler fish caught offshore. Landings of fish in the other areas of Virginia, Maryland, and North Carolina covered by the report were larger during April than for many months. This was especially true with respect to the Lower Northern Neck area of Virginia.

Production of fresh picked crab meat increased materially over that for the month of March. One hundred fifty-four thousand pounds were produced, an increase in all areas of 56,000 pounds, or 56 percent. This large increase was caused by the fact that as soon as the weather began to get warm, the crabs started to move around and dredging operations gave way to the use of crab pots. Crab meat production during April 1946 was 98,000 pounds, 36 percent less than for April 1947.

Shucked oyster production dropped from 247,000 gallons in March to 72,000 gallons in April. For the same period in 1946, the production was 69,000 gallons. This big decrease was to be expected owing to the change in seasons.

The demand for fish was fairly good through the month. The good prices received for crab meat during the first half of the month dropped sharply during the latter part of the month. Also, the price of crabs to the fishermen dropped from \$15 to \$5 per barrel.

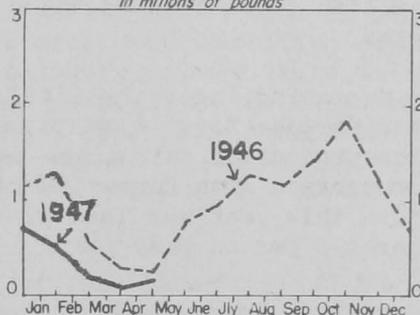


## South Atlantic

**SHRIMP PRODUCTION:** Shrimp production in Florida and the South Atlantic States during April amounted to 122,000 pounds (heads off), 9,000 pounds, or 7 percent, more than last month, but 54 percent (145,000 pounds) less than landings in April 1946, according to the Fishery Market News Office in Jacksonville, Fla.

Florida landings were 101,000 pounds against 159,000 pounds for the same period last year-- a decrease of 36 percent, while Georgia landings were 80 percent less than in April 1946.

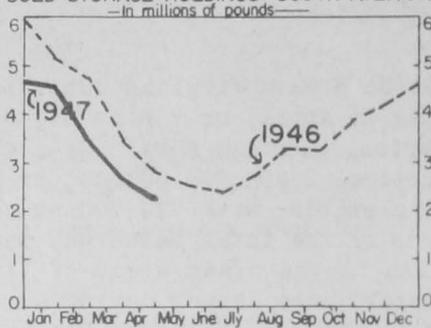
SOUTH ATLANTIC SHRIMP RECEIPTS  
in millions of pounds



\* \* \* \* \*

**COLD STORAGE:** Holdings of frozen fish and shellfish for the five major cold-storage warehouses in the South Atlantic States totaled 2,265,000 pounds on May 1, according to the Service's Market News Office in Jacksonville, Fla. Compared with holdings on April 1 of 2,706,000 pounds, this month showed a decrease of 441,000 pounds, or 16 percent, and was 564,000 pounds less than on May 1, 1946.

## COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS—SOUTH ATLANTIC



Items with stocks of 100,000 pounds or more were, in order of quantity, as follows: mullet, shrimp, Spanish mackerel, whiting and king whiting, and fillets of cod and rosefish.

Holdings of fish decreased 308,000,000 pounds and shellfish stocks went down 133,000 pounds during April. Large withdrawals of shrimp, mullet, scup, whiting and king whiting accounted for the major reduction. However, there were some gains in the holdings of croaker, grouper, kingfish (king mackerel), and Spanish mackerel.



Gulf

**PRODUCTION:** Shrimp landings during April for Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas, as reported to the Fishery Market News Office at New Orleans, was 36 percent greater than the previous month and 9 percent greater than April 1946. From January through April 1947, production was approximately 14 percent less than during the corresponding period last year. Up to the end of April this year, Alabama and Mississippi landings were less than during the same period last year, and Louisiana and Texas production was greater.

Oyster production during April compares favorably with landings during the previous month. From January through April, landings this year were 44 percent greater than for the same period in 1946.

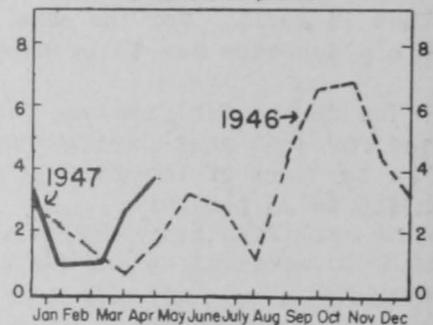
Fish landings were slightly greater in April than during last month; salt-water fish production decreased, while landings of fresh-water varieties were greater.

Beginning about the middle of April, appreciable quantities of crabs were landed for the first time this year; however, landings were less than one-half of the production during the same month last year. Crab meat production was low in comparison with former years. Both fresh-cooked and processed crab meat production this year was less than one-half of the quantities produced during the comparable period last year.

\* \* \* \* \*

**COLD STORAGE:** Eleven cold-storage warehouses in Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas reported frozen fish and shellfish holdings of 2,204,000 pounds on May 1, 1947, 16 percent less than four weeks before, and 46 percent less than total holdings on May 2, 1946, according to the Service's New Orleans Market News Office.

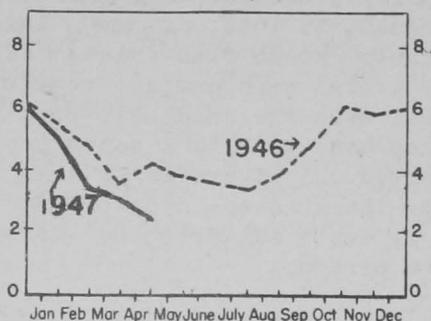
Frozen shrimp holdings on May 1 amounted to 799,000 pounds. During the previous four weeks, withdrawals from cold-storage warehouses exceeded the "in" move-

GULF SHRIMP RECEIPTS—  
in millions of pounds

ment by 328,000 pounds. Holdings were 906,000 pounds less than last year.

Salt-water fish holdings on May 1 amounted to 1,128,000 pounds, 124,000 pounds less than four weeks before, and 1,091,000 pounds less than last year. During the past four weeks, the "in" movement of Spanish mackerel exceeded withdrawals by nearly 100,000 pounds. This "in" movement was more than counterbalanced by a large withdrawal of mullet, rosefish and haddock fillets, and nominal quantities of some other varieties.

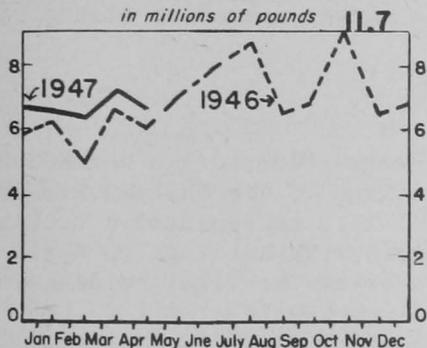
GULF GOLD STORAGE HOLDINGS  
in millions of pounds



## Great Lakes

**RECEIPTS:** Receipts of fresh and frozen fishery products in the Chicago wholesale market during April amounted to 6,590,000 pounds, according to the Service's Market News Office in that city. This was a decline of 9 percent compared with March and was 11 percent above April 1946.

CHICAGO RECEIPTS  
in millions of pounds



a condition resulting from delayed arrivals of halibut and salmon from Alaska which had been held up due to transportation difficulties.

Shellfish receipts were 20 percent below those of March but were 71 percent greater than in April 1946. Chief reasons for the decline in shellfish receipts were the sharp drop in arrivals of shucked oysters and spiny lobster tails together with a 9 percent decline in shrimp arrivals. Fresh shrimp from the Gulf States, after a two-month period of light deliveries, made its appearance toward the latter part of the month, when approximately 100,000 pounds arrived within 4 days. Arrivals of Mexican shrimp, an important item during the early months of the year, were missing entirely during April.

Although falling far below 1946 deliveries, fish from Lake Erie and the Bayport, Michigan areas made their appearance during April. Deliveries up to the end of April were little more than half as heavy as in 1946.

Smelt receipts, chiefly from Wisconsin, but with important arrivals added from Michigan, were more than double those of April 1946. Deliveries during the early days of the month found smelt commanding prices of from 25 to 32 cents per pound, but heavy deliveries during the last week in April forced the price as low as 5 cents per pound.

After the consistently high fish prices maintained during the Lenten season, the rapid decline of prices during the remainder of April made selling conditions, in quantity lots, extremely hazardous. This was especially true of the rough fish market. Rough fish prices declined so rapidly and so low that large amounts of No. 1 fish were dumped--some of it directly upon receipt from the producer--so great were the unsalable supplies on hand. Toward the end of April, Lake Erie sheepshead went to 2 cents per pound with no purchasers. Lake Erie yellow pike started out at around 55 cents per pound but fell to 18 cents. Whitefish took perhaps the greatest drop of any item, falling from a high of 68 cents on April 9 to 21 cents on April 30. Lake trout fell from 68 cents to 30 cents during the same period.

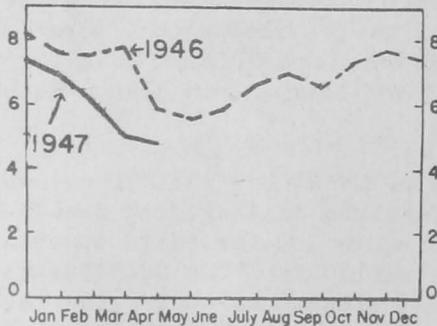
Shrimp prices remained fairly steady throughout April, fresh shrimp in the jumbo size, when it was actually jumbo, sold for an average of 80 cents per pound. Frozen shrimp sold from 78 to 83 cents for jumbo, 70 to 75 cents for large, and 55 to 60 cents for medium.

After the Lenten season, the over-all demand for fishery products was erratic and unsustained. One day's demand was entirely different from the following day or the day before. Although prices were as low as the market has offered since 1941, few buyers took advantage of the situation and as a result, instead of truck-loads, boxes and half-boxes were sold. However, the market seemed to strengthen somewhat during the last four days of the month.

\* \* \* \* \*

**COLD STORAGE:** Stocks of fishery products in Chicago cold-storage warehouses on May 1, 1947, amounted to 4,631,000 pounds, according to the Chicago Fishery Market News Office. This represented a decline of 8 percent compared with holdings on April 3 and was 20 percent below the total holdings on May 2, 1946.

COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS—CHICAGO  
in millions of pounds



Holdings of fresh-water species declined 2 percent from the total on April 3 and were 42 percent below the total holdings of fresh-water items on May 2, 1946. Chiefly responsible for the decline were greatly reduced holdings of chubs, lake trout, whitefish, and yellow pike. There were reduced holdings of nearly all fresh-water varieties with the exception of catfish, bullheads, and lake herring.

Salt-water holdings declined 5 percent from April 3, but were 2 percent greater than the holdings in this section on May 2, 1946. Although stocks of frozen fillets were 34 percent below the April 3 total, they were also 7 percent below holdings of this item on May 2, 1946. It is noted that on May 2, 1946, cod fillets formed 77 percent of all fillet holdings, while on May 1, 1947, this item formed but 39 percent of the fillet total, being surpassed by rosefish fillets which accounted for 57 percent of the total of frozen fillets. The bulk of the frozen fillets received during April was not stored in warehouses but was, for the most part, sold directly from the dealers' places of business.

Stocks of halibut on May 1 were 2 percent above those on April 3, but much of the halibut received during the month was sold direct without being stored in

cold-storage warehouses, which accounts for the slight variation in holdings of halibut for the month.

Receipts of halibut during the month were higher than comparable months during years past. This was accounted for by transportation difficulties on the west coast which delayed usual shipments of frozen stocks from Alaska.

Holdings of all varieties of salmon, chiefly fall salmon, were 24 percent above the April 3 total and were 168 percent above holdings of salmon on May 2, 1946. What was true of halibut receipts was also true of salmon as most of the receipts originated in Alaska.

Holdings of shellfish and related products declined 30 percent from April 3 and were 26 percent below holdings on May 2, 1946. During the month, the greatest decline occurred in shrimp holdings as arrivals of this item were seasonally low. Nearly all items in the shellfish section fell below the previous month's holdings with the exception of scallops. Most arrivals of frozen shrimp went directly to the dealers' floors and were sold from there without going to storage.



## Pacific

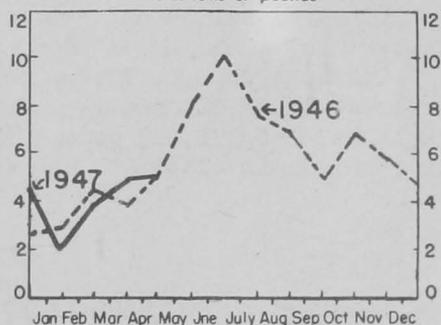
**ARRIVALS:** Landings and receipts of fishery products at Seattle during April rose to 4,828,000 pounds, according to the Service's local Market News Office. This was about 12 percent over March receipts and 13 percent more than April 1946.

Receipts of fresh salmon, mostly kings, amounted to 642,000 pounds, nearly six times the volume for the previous month and were largely responsible for April's over-all gain. Mild fishing weather and early offshore migrations resulted in better than average troll catches which included 88 troll vessels landing directly at Seattle. Additional deliveries of frozen salmon from Alaskan and British Columbian sources raised the total to slightly more than 2,081,000 pounds. These salmon receipts accounted for nearly 43 percent of Seattle's total volume.

Otter-trawl landings of bottom fish dropped sharply during the month with 417,000 pounds delivered in 50 trips consisting mainly of rockfishes, English and petrale soles. Compared with April 1946, this was 133 fewer trips with a resultant decline in trawl fish of over 2-1/3 million pounds. Many trawlers continued to land their catches at Anacortes, Bellingham, and Everett, ports north of Seattle. With a continuance of heavy landings by the trawl fleet, it was definitely indicated at the close of the month that these northern ports faced the problem of over-supplied markets.

Receipts from Alaska continued to climb, reaching a total of 3,061,000 pounds, the bulk being frozen halibut, king, and silver salmon. These coastwise shipments contributed nearly 63 percent to Seattle's total volume and were about half a million pounds greater than the March consignments. Shipments from British Columbia were also on the upswing, increasing from 140,000 to 474,000 pounds with heavier imports reported for lingcod, sole fillets, and frozen halibut.

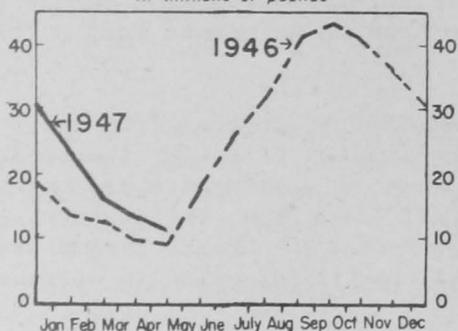
SEATTLE RECEIPTS  
in millions of pounds



April's receipts raised the 1947 four-months' total volume to 16,055,000 pounds, about 5 percent above the comparable 1946 figure of 15,356,000 pounds.

\* \* \* \* \*

**NORTHWEST COLD STORAGE:** Holdings of fish and shellfish in 30 cold-storage warehouses in Washington, Oregon, and Alaska on May 1 totaled 10,417,000 pounds, according to the Service's Market News Office at Seattle. This was 15 percent less than stocks on April 1, but nearly 1-1/3 million pounds greater than those on May 1, 1946.



More than half of the region's frozen stocks was held in Washington warehouses, about 38 percent was held in Alaska, and 9 percent in Oregon plants. All Alaskan freezers were cleared of shellfish and cured products during April with most of these items being shipped for storage at Seattle.

Many species indicated only moderate withdrawals, but the holdings for a number of them were greatly reduced. Stocks of chum salmon dropped 1,093,000 pounds; halibut, 554,000 pounds; and sablefish, 368,000 pounds. Most of the chums were being canned.

Heaviest inventories were reported for bait and animal food, 3,149,000 pounds; salmon, all species, 2,682,000 pounds; sablefish, 2,173,000 pounds; halibut, 794,000 pounds; and sole and other fillets, 342,000 pounds. In addition, 1,608,000 pounds of mild-cured salmon and 338,000 pounds of salted fish were in storage.

During April, 1,578,000 pounds were frozen compared with 2,033,000 pounds in March and 2,526,000 pounds in April a year ago. Nearly 87 percent of the total freezings, or 1,371,000 pounds, was bait and animal food with all except 13 percent being frozen in Alaska. Freezings of other fish and shellfish were relatively small.

\* \* \* \* \*

**LANDINGS IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA:** April's production of fish at the southern California ports of San Pedro, Santa Monica, Newport Beach, and San Diego reveals the normal transition from winter to summer fishing. During the spring season, fishing is usually erratic, and this year has been no exception. While total production declined at all ports except San Diego, a few species, particularly barracuda, increased quite favorably. Prices remained fairly firm, although some normal seasonal declines were noted, according to the Service's Market News Office in San Pedro.

At San Pedro and Santa Monica, total production declined about 19 percent. The drop in bluefin tuna was most outstanding, but not unusual since the March production of this species was exceptionally high. Most other species followed their usual seasonal trend.

At Newport Beach, a decline of 25 percent took place. Anchovies, bonito, and yellowtail declined heavily, while most other species showed increases.

At San Diego, the total production increased 10 percent over March. Here the larger catch of barracuda, grouper, California halibut, and mackerel was sufficient to meet market demands for fresh fish, so no bonito or yellowtail was purchased from the boats which fish for these species for canning purposes.

There are some indications that the shortage of communication facilities resulting from the strike of long distance telephone operators during the last half of April tended to restrict sales by wholesalers, and, in turn, production was adversely affected.

\* \* \* \* \*

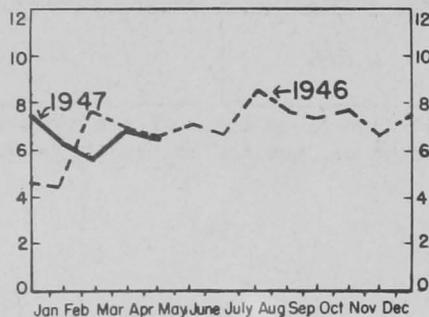
**COLD STORAGE:** The freezings and holdings of fish and fishery products were fairly normal for the month of April, according to the Service's Market News Office in San Pedro.

Freezings increased from 301,000 pounds during March to 366,000 pounds in April, or 22 percent. Freezings in April 1947 were, however, only slightly above the April 1946 freezings when 344,000 pounds of fish and shellfish were frozen.

The greatest significant changes in freezings were an increase in unclassified salt-water fish from 66,000 pounds in March to 115,000 pounds in April, and a decrease in shrimp from 171,000 pounds to 128,000 pounds.

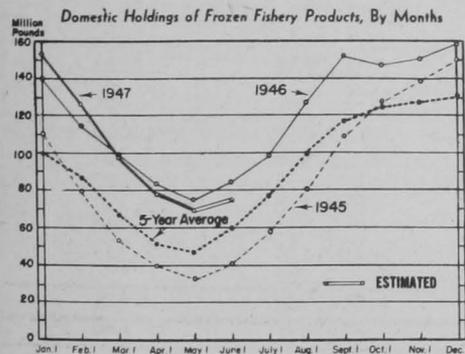
Holdings of fishery products in cold storage as of May 1 declined 8 percent as compared with holdings on April 1, and declined 22 percent as compared with those of May 1, 1946. Salmon, halibut, sablefish, and shellfish had the most significant drops.

**COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS—CALIFORNIA.**  
in millions of pounds



## United States

**FREEZINGS AND HOLDINGS** Stocks of frozen fish and shellfish held on May 1 by firms reporting their activities to the Fish and Wildlife Service amounted to



70,202,000 pounds--10 percent below April 1, according to Current Fishery Statistics No. 344. Items held in considerably greater volume on May 1 than on the same date in 1946 were haddock, rosefish, and whiting fillets; sablefish; and salmon. Items showing marked declines were cod fillets, lake herring, smelt, and shrimp.

Data contained in this bulletin on the domestic freezing and holdings of frozen fishery products are based on reports from 213 plants. These are principally public cold-storage warehouses.

